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Review of Trade.

The harvest has now been gathered practically all over Canada, and the anticipations of last month in this regard have been fully realized. The quality of the Manitoba and Northwest grain has, as a rule, never been better, while the damage from frost reported in a few narrow sections has been almost nil. One authority estimates that there will be 20,000,000 bushels of wheat for export from the Canadian prairie regions. The prices, it is true, are low, but the people are in a cheerful frame of mind over the great bounties bestowed on them by a kind Providence, and well they may be.

In anticipation of the early results of the harvest,—for it is expected, in view of the lesson taught to the farmers who held back their grain for higher prices last year, that grain will be run into market early this season,—orders from the retail trade are pretty frequent and of fair volume. Payments are also improving, which is a good sign. Domestic cotton and woollen goods are both firm in price, and the mills are in almost all cases fully engaged on orders, some of them for months ahead.

The millinery openings of Toronto and Montreal this month were very largely attended, and trade in that branch is brisk.

The American silk manufacturers have combined in an exhibit of their products at the Chicago Fair, and are to have 18,000 square feet of space. About fifty manufacturers are to be represented.

Although the raw silk of China is intrinsically the best in the world, yet owing to primitive and faulty methods of preparing it for market, the Chinese make no progress, while the Japanese growers making a study of the subject, and devoting great care to the preparation of their silk, are actually beating the Chinese with a silk naturally inferior. The Chinese will not change their methods of work, no more than their social customs. The modern Japanese are eager for education and enlightenment on all subjects. A bill has just been introduced into the Japanese parliament providing for training schools

in the silk trade, and financial aid is to be given by the government to exporters of silk goods.

The outlook in the silk trade seems gradually to be improving, especially in the ribbon branch. Late advices from Lyons, France, state that the looms of that important silk centre are fully engaged on bengalines, failles, changeables, and other weaves of silk. The Cresfeld manufacturers are well supplied with orders. There is an improved demand for velvets in both Lyons and Cresfeld. St. Etienne, Zurich and Basle are turning out vast quantities of ribbons. In the United States the Paterson firms are turning out very large quantities of goods, but the profits of manufacturers are cut very close.

The *American Silk Journal* announces that representatives of the silk workers from all the principal silk centres in the States will convene at Allentown, Pa., on the 8th of October. It is announced that important action will be taken on matter of great interest to the silk industry of the United States, and that the present condition of all employed in the craft will be thoroughly investigated. Delegates from open unions and Knights of Labor are to be admitted, when we take to be a wise step on the part of those concerned.

We mentioned some time ago the formation of a company in London, called the London Fabric Printing Co., to operate a new process, whereby fabrics such as carpets, cretonnes, etc. could be printed in any number of colors by one operation and with a speed hitherto unattainable. We see by the *Kidderminster Shuttle* that the company has held its first regular meeting to report operations. The president, who is W. H. Smith, mayor of Kidderminster, says a difficulty has been to get girls who can acquire the skill necessary for the work of cutting the blocks of color which is of a delicate character. For the present, the company will confine their work to the production of cretonnes. Whether it has been proved to be unsatisfactory on carpets does not appear.

It is said that the Vladikavka Caucasus Railway contemplates, with the assistance of two Russian banks, to start the direct export of Russian cotton, and has been authorized by the Government to establish special cotton stations with hydraulic presses at Tashkand, Kokan, and Samarcand.

An interesting report has been received by the British Foreign Office on cotton growing in Zanzibar. Experiments have proved that this portion of British Africa is well suited to cotton raising, and not only that, but the valuable sea island cotton, the supply of which is so scant compared with the common varieties, grows there prolifically. With the introduction of machinery and skilled labor England will have here a most important new field for the supply of raw cotton within her